



AREA GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

The District Administrative Bylaws provides for the selection of Area Governors either by appointment by the District Governor or by election by the Area Councils. Toastmasters International recommends that District Governors appoint Area Governors.

If your District wishes to have the Area Governors elected by the Area Councils, then the following procedure must be followed.

The Area Council meeting, at which the election for Area Governor is conducted, must be held at least two weeks before the annual meeting of the District Council. The current Area Governor determines the time and place of the meeting. Written notice of the election must be given to the President of each Club in the Area at least four weeks before the election. Notice should include the qualifications for candidates and list the voting members of the Area Council.

The voting members of the Area Council are the President, Vice President Education and Vice President Membership of each Club in the Area. No other member of the Area Council has a vote. A majority of the voting Area Council members or their proxies constitutes a quorum. If a quorum is not present, an election cannot be held unless another meeting is conducted which is properly noticed and at which a quorum is present.

The Club President, Vice President Education, or Vice President Membership may designate, in writing, any member of the Club to act as a proxy for him or her at the Area Council election meeting. In the event two of those officers don't attend the meeting and have not designated, in writing, active members of the club to act as their proxies at the meeting, the officer or proxy holder in attendance is deemed to hold the proxy of the others and may cast the Club's three votes. If two valid proxy holders are present and cannot decide among them who will cast the third vote, the third proxy goes to the highest-ranking officer present or his or her proxy. This assures that every club will be represented by three votes.

Qualifications

If practicable, each candidate should have served at least six months as a member of a District Council (Club President or Vice President Education). "Practicable" is defined as "desired, but not required". Each Club in the Area may submit to the Area Governor, in writing, any member in good standing as a candidate for Area Governor. The Area Governor places the names of candidates from the Clubs in nomination at the election. Nominations then will be accepted from the floor. After the nominations are closed, if there is only one candidate, the Area Governor declares that candidate elected.

If two or more candidates are nominated, each candidate is entitled to a two-minute speech. The speeches are delivered in alphabetical order of the candidate's last name. If a candidate is not present, that candidate's representative may give the speech.

Each member of the Area Council in attendance, or his or her proxy, is entitled to one vote. No Area Council member or proxy may cast more than three votes, even if he or she is a member of more than one Club. The Area Governor may act as a Club proxy and may cast up to three votes. However, in the case of a tie, the Area Governor is entitled to only one additional vote to break the tie.

Voting is by secret ballot. Any candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast is declared elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a contested office, voting continues without the name of the candidate who received the fewest votes. This procedure continues until one of the candidates receives a majority of the votes. The Area Governor then notifies the District Governor of the election results.